hundred and seventy-seven gang coolies were disbanded during 1952–53 from the five subdivisions of the Krishna division of the Highways Department.

" The Chief Engineer (Highways) found that the system of employing gang coolies for maintenance of roads had outlived its usefulness in the context of the current traffic needs and he introduced certain changes as an experimental measure in some subdivisions. As the result of the changes, 'gang coolies' were dispensed with in the case of roads where the traffic intensity was not heavy enough and in respect of stretches which were either black-topped or cement-concreted.

" Sir, another question put by Sri G. Rama Rao concerns the same subject. I suggest that I might be permitted to answer that question also now."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Yes, I have no objection."

Coolie maistris in the Highways department, Krishna district.

* 1051 *Q.*—SRI G. RAMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that mile coolies and coolie maistris working in the Highways department in the Krishna district were removed from service this year, and if so, how many such mile coolie workers were removed?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" No maistris were removed from service. Some who were employed in acting vacancies had to be ousted when the regular incumbents joined.

" Two hundred and seventy-seven mile coolies were discharged from service in all the five subdivisions of the Krishna division during 1952–53."

SRI V. RAMA RAO :—" Since the abandonment of the system of gang coolies and the introduction of the contract system the condition of the roads has worsened; therefore, will the Government reconsider the introduction of the gang coolie system? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" As I have already stated the Chief Engineer has reported that this system has outlived its usefulness."

SRI P. NARASIMHA REDDI :—" May I know, Sir, in how many divisions this system has been tried and how this particular division was selected for the experiment? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I suggest that a separate question may be asked."

SRI M. VEERABHADRAM :—" Might I ask if this is the way in which the Five-Year Plan is being implemented? "